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ABSTRACT

This workbook, a part of the Providence (Rhode Island) Preservation Society's preservation education curriculum for elementary school students, is designed to help students appreciate the significance and the beauty of Providence's architectural heritage. (Other materials in this program are a handbook entitled, "A New Look at Old Buildings," and an accompanying film strip and audiocassette). With the aid of the workbook, students learn about architectural styles, use timelines, complete map exercises, take a walking tour of early Providence, observe the design of specific houses, go on a treasure hunt, work a crossword puzzle, take a cartoon quiz, and draw a house. A glossary of architectural terms is included. (PPB)

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THE PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

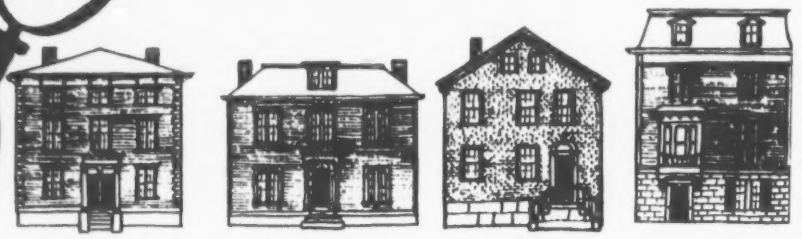
PRESENTS:

RHODY SUPERSLEUTH

IN

A Providence HISTORY MYSTERY

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE
THROUGH ARCHITECTURE



WALKING TOUR • TREASURE HUNT • MAPS • TIME LINE

ACTIVITIES • HOUSE HISTORIES • MYSTERY DETAIL

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1988

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EDITOR

AMY JORDAN

DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

JANET DOWNING

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1987

A Providence HISTORY MYSTERY

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE THROUGH ARCHITECTURE

INTRODUCTION

This workbook is a part of the Providence Preservation Society's preservation education curriculum for elementary school students. The curriculum has been designed to help students appreciate the significance and the beauty of Providence's architectural heritage.

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HOUSE STYLES IN PROVIDENCE

Have you ever noticed how many different kinds of houses there are in Providence? Let's take a look at a few of the styles that you can find.

The earliest Colonial houses in Providence were very simple and plain. They looked like houses that the settlers remembered from England. As the English settlers became more wealthy they began to build bigger and fancier houses like the China Trade houses.

Later, people in Providence decided to copy houses from other countries. They built Greek Revival buildings that looked like the giant stone temples in Greece. They built Italianate buildings that looked like the huge palaces in Italian cities. They built French Style houses that had steep mansard roofs like the buildings in France. They built Queen Anne houses that combined the styles of many of these countries. They built Gothic Revival houses that had tall pointed roofs like medieval cathedrals found all over Europe.

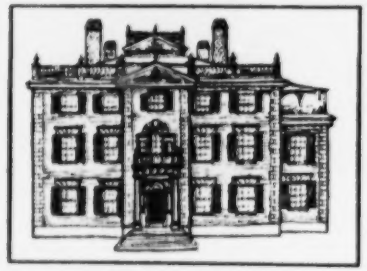
Some people liked the simple Colonial houses better. They built Colonial Revival houses that looked like the simpler Colonial houses.

Triple Decker houses were built to house many of the families who had come to Providence to look for jobs. One Triple Decker house could hold three families. A Triple Decker house was less expensive and faster to build than three houses.

Bungalows are low houses that usually have a porch on the front.

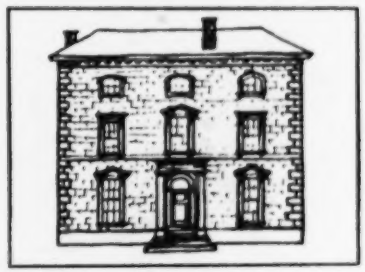
- Color England blue. Put a blue circle around the Colonial house, the China Trade house and the Colonial Revival house.
- Color Greece orange. Put an orange circle around the Greek Revival house.
- Color Italy yellow. Put a yellow circle around the Italianate house.
- Color France red. Put a red circle around the French style house.

Colonial
1700-1750



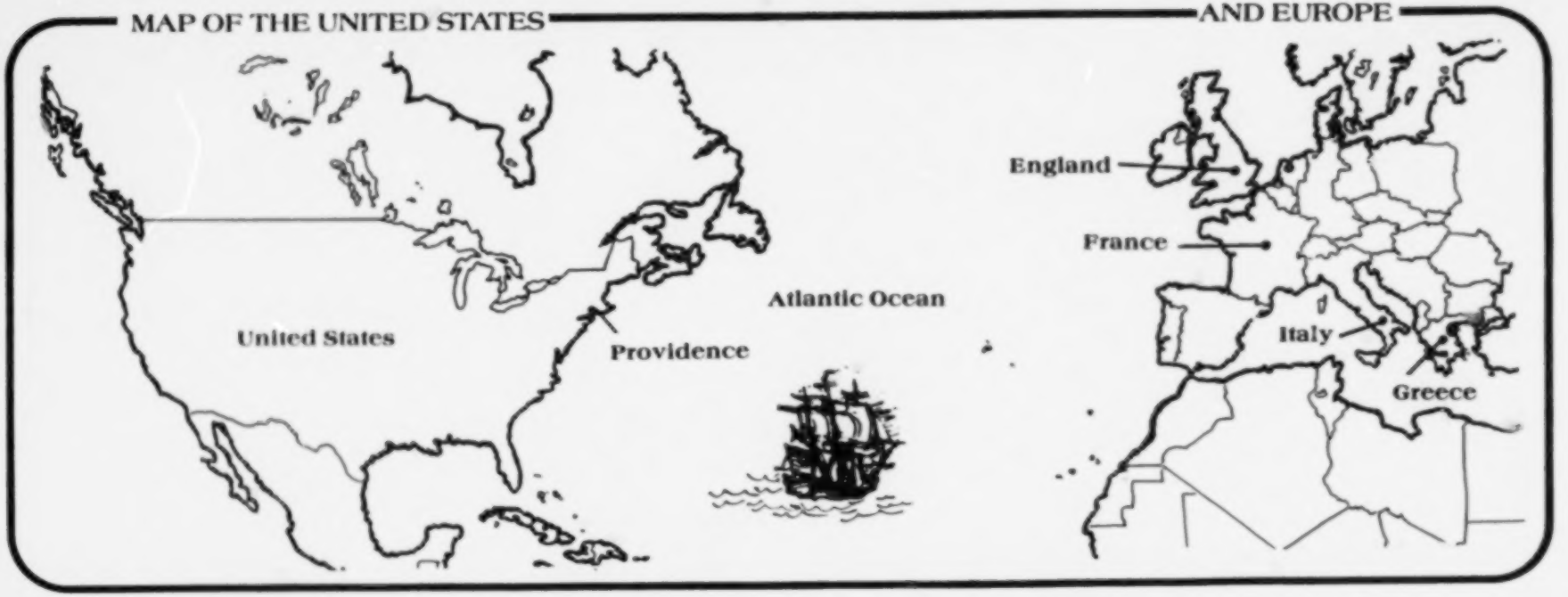
China Trade
1750-1800

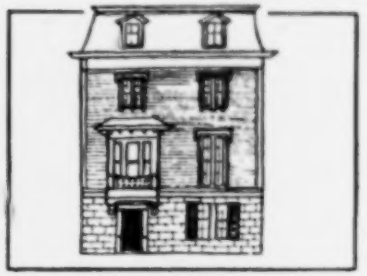
Greek Revival
1830-1860



Italianate
1850-1885

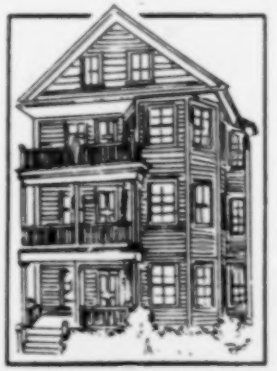
MAP OF THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE





French Style
1855-1890

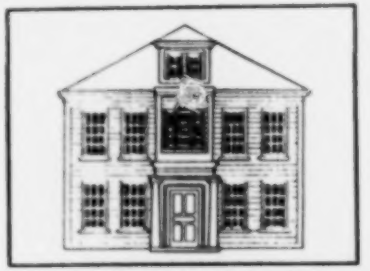
Gothic Revival
1850-1870



Triple Deckers
1900-1930

Bungalows
1910-1946

Queen Anne
1880-1910



Colonial Revival
1895-1915

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A Providence HISTORY MYSTERY TIME LINE

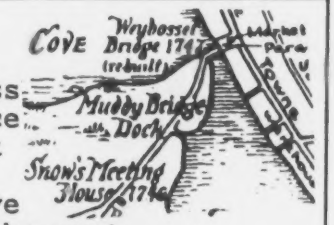
1676
Almost all the buildings in Providence are burned during King Philip's War, a bloody battle between the settlers and the Indians. King Philip, or "Metacomet," his Indian name, is the chief of the Wampanoag Indian Tribe.

1769
The Brick School House is built as one of the first public schools in America.

July 4, 1776
The Declaration of Independence is signed.

1600 1636 1676 1700 1711 1754 1762 1769 1776

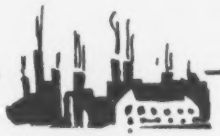
1636
Roger Williams founds Providence as a place for religious freedom.



1711
Bridges across the Providence River make it easier for people to live and work on the west side of the river. Before this time, most people lived and worked on the east side of the Providence River.

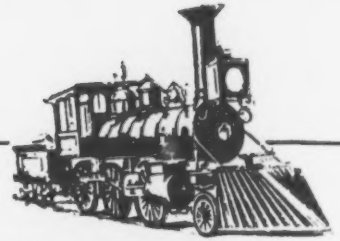
1762
The Colony House is built at 150 Benefit Street.
In this building on May 4, 1776, Rhode Island became the first colony to declare independence from England.

Help Rhody Supersleuth organize the TIME LINE.
Use your ruler to draw a straight line from the date of each event to the correct date on the time line.



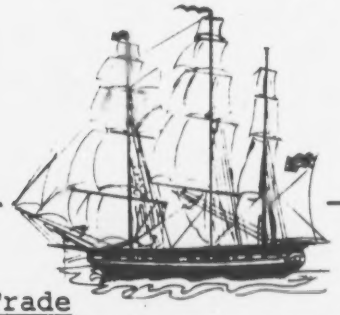
1820-1920
Factories are built to make products such as textiles and jewelry. Factories can make products more quickly and less expensively than ever before.

1850-1950
Many people move to Providence from other countries to look for a better way of life for their families.

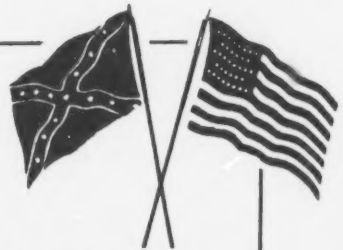


Around 1900
Trains provide a new way to transport products in and out of Providence. At the turn of the century, around 400 trains a day came through Providence.

1800 1850 1900 1950 1970

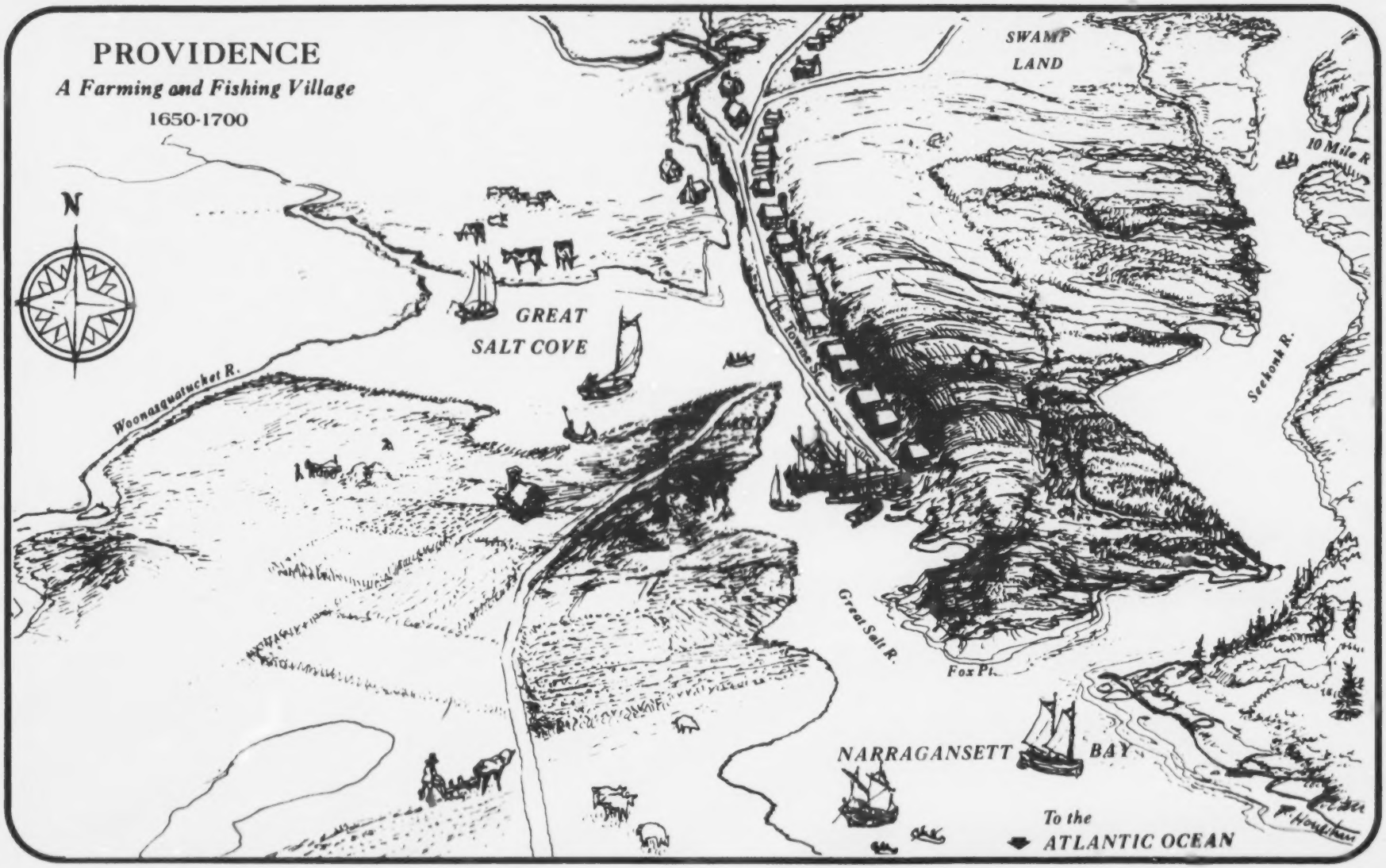


1750-1800
The China Trade
Providence merchants make large fortunes by sending ships to trade with other countries. This new wealth let merchants build larger and more elaborate houses than before.



1860's
America's Civil War is fought between the northern and southern states.

1960's
Interstate 95 is built. This highway divides downtown Providence from many of the neighborhoods.



1. What does this map tell you about the way people lived at this time? _____

2. Color the water on both maps blue. How is the water different on this map? _____

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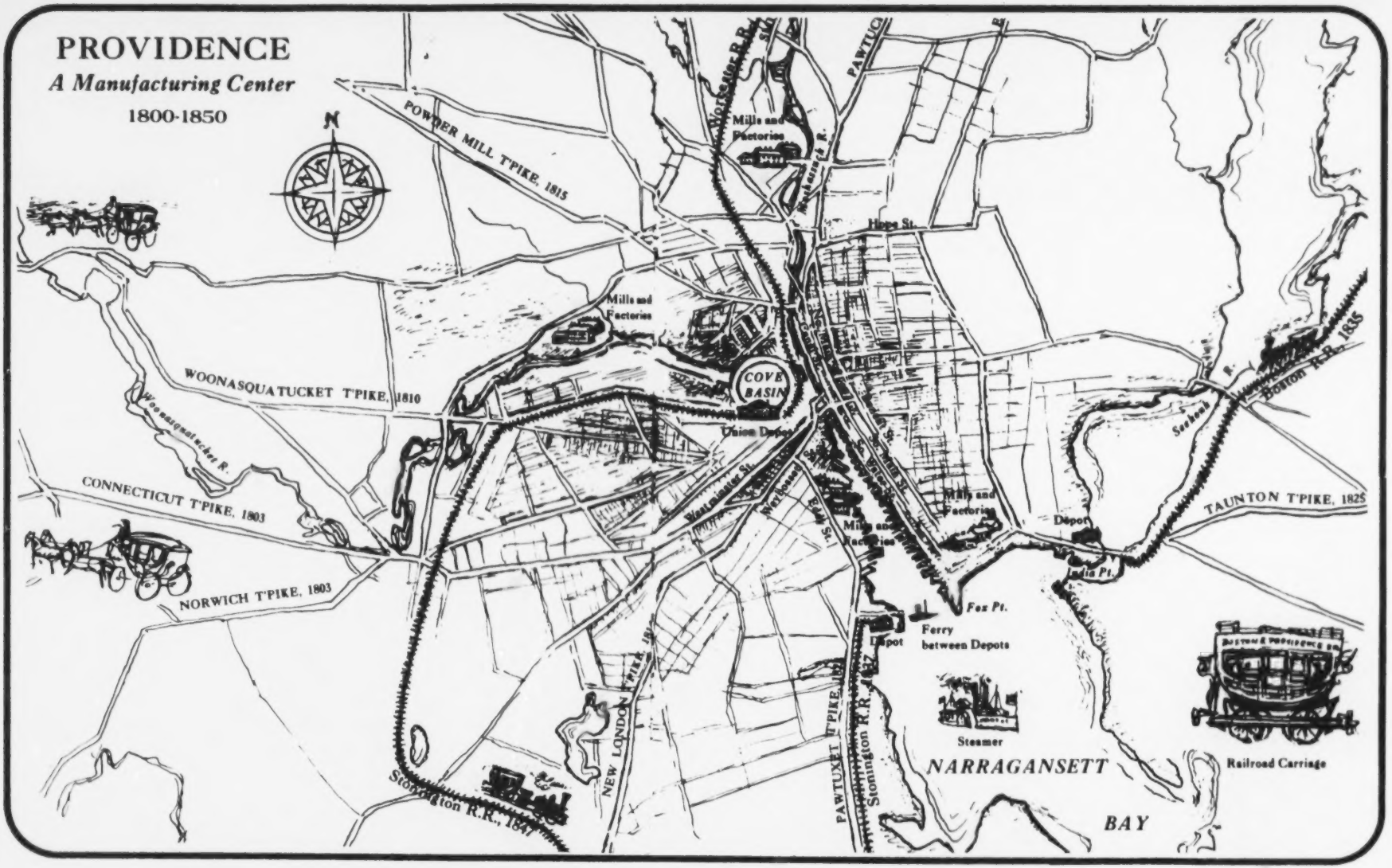

1. What differences do you see between this map and the map on the opposite page? _____

2. How many different kinds of transportation can you find pictured on this map? _____

Maps from Becoming a City by Margaret Dickie Uroff, copyright © 1968 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. reproduced by permission of publisher.

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HISTORY MYSTERY

EARLY PROVIDENCE WALKING TOUR

Can you find the
MYSTERY DETAIL?

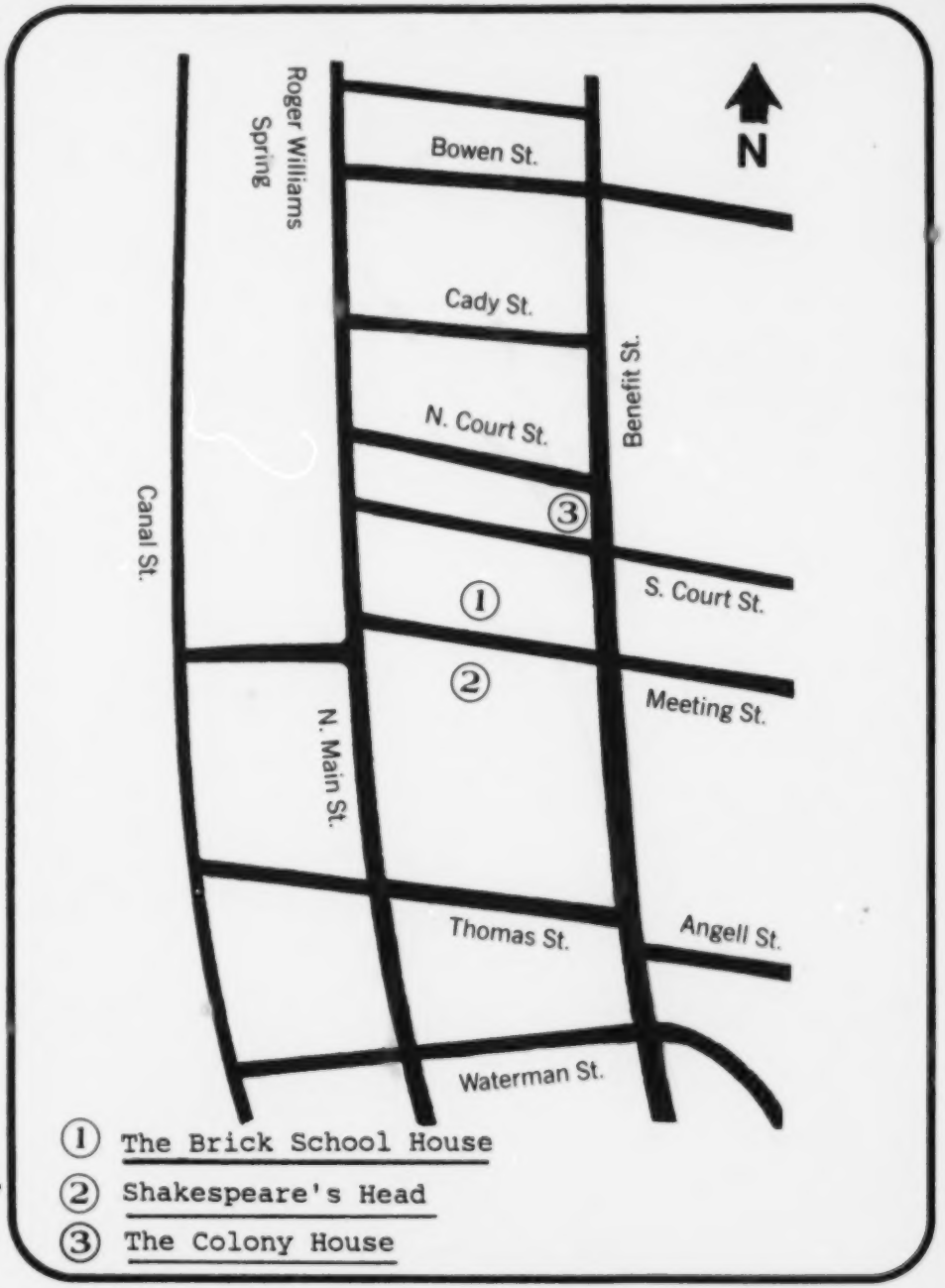
Where is it?

_____

(Address)

*CLUE:

You can find this mystery detail on your tour, but it is not on the houses pictured on the following pages!



① The Brick School House

② Shakespeare's Head

③ The Colony House

(1) 1769
THE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE
24 Meeting Street

The Brick School House was one of the first free public schools in America. Going to school was very different 200 years ago. Boys and girls of all ages would be together in one classroom.

Books and paper were very expensive. Students often had to memorize many of their lessons from the teacher's book.

How is this school different from your school? _____

_____

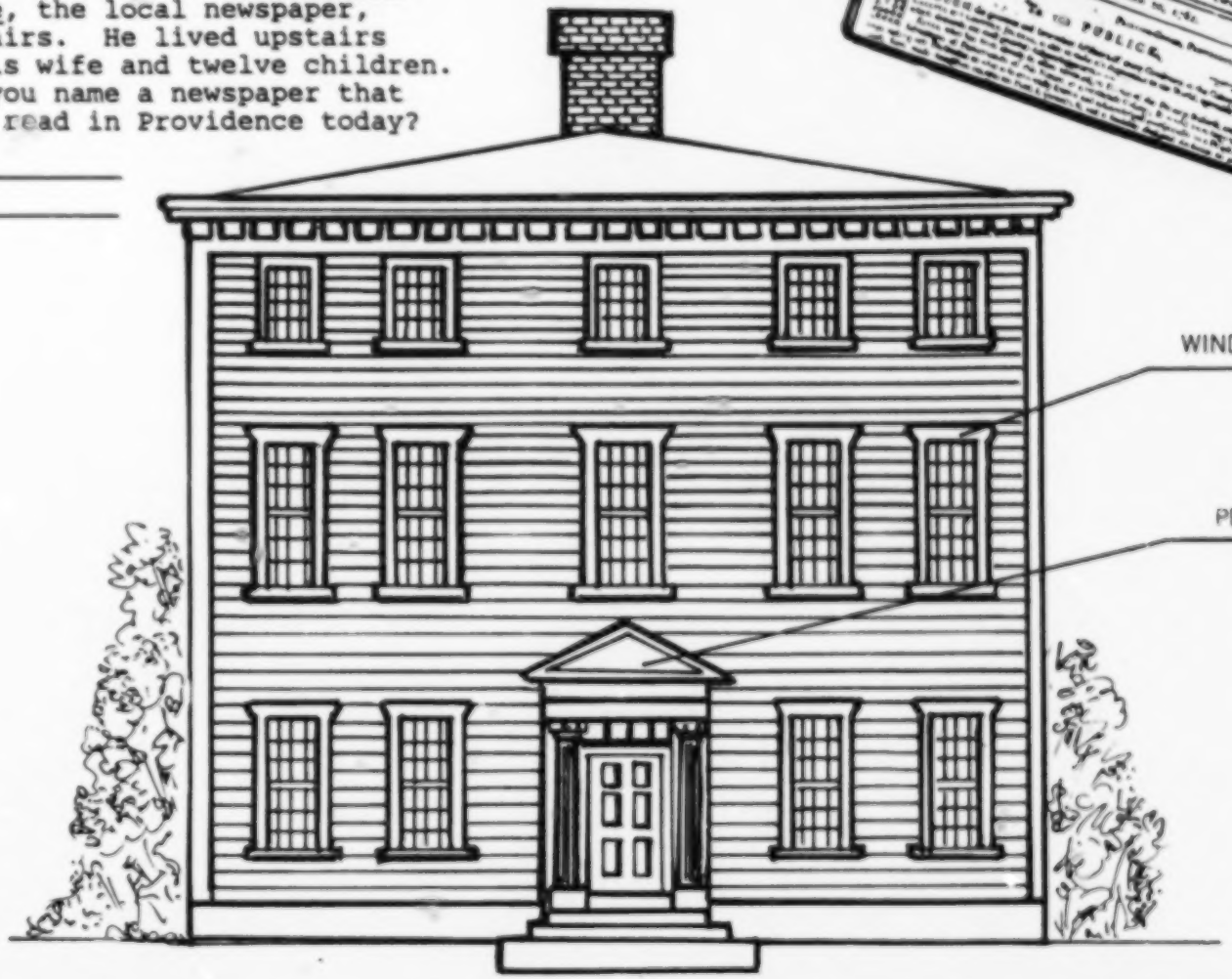
② 1772
SHAKESPERE'S HEAD
21 Meeting Street

John Carter lived and worked in this house over 200 years ago. He printed the Providence Gazette, the local newspaper, downstairs. He lived upstairs with his wife and twelve children.

Can you name a newspaper that people read in Providence today?

_____

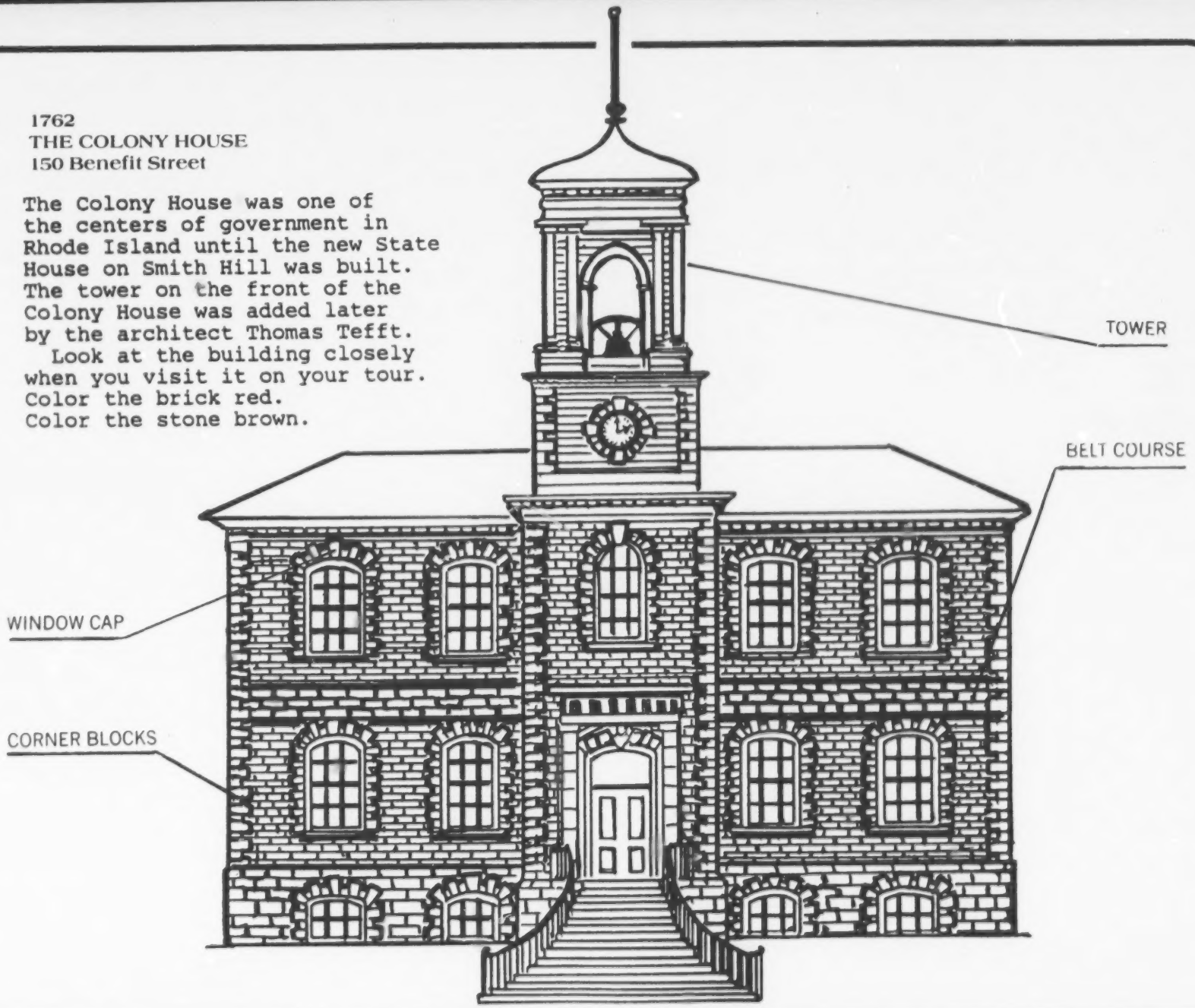
_____



③ 1762
THE COLONY HOUSE
150 Benefit Street

The Colony House was one of the centers of government in Rhode Island until the new State House on Smith Hill was built. The tower on the front of the Colony House was added later by the architect Thomas Tefft.

Look at the building closely when you visit it on your tour.
Color the brick red.
Color the stone brown.

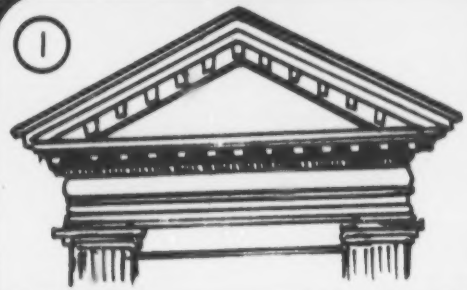


HISTORY MYSTERY

TREASURE HUNT

Rhody Supersleuth wants you to look for these details when you take your tour. Write the address of the house in the space below the detail.

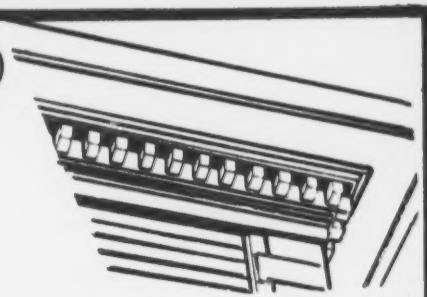
1



PEDIMENT

ADDRESS

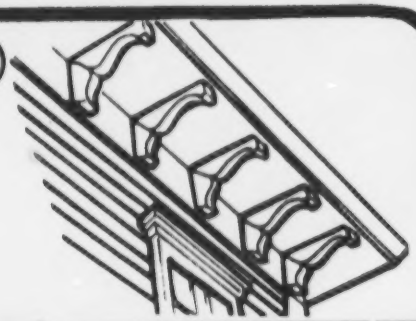
2



DENTILS

ADDRESS

3



BRACKETS

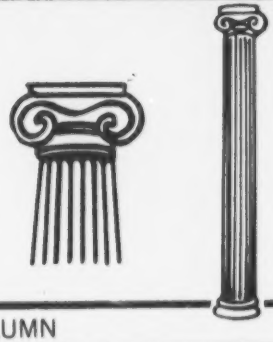
ADDRESS

4

DORIC COLUMN

ADDRESS

5



IONIC COLUMN

ADDRESS

6

CORINTHIAN COLUMN

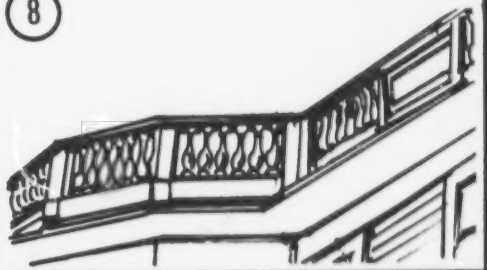
ADDRESS

7

BELT COURSE

ADDRESS

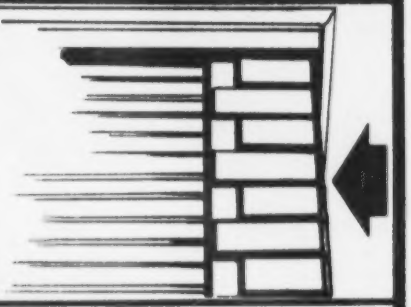
8



BALUSTRADE

ADDRESS

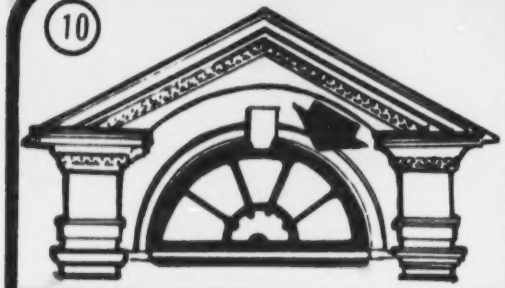
9



CORNER BLOCKS

ADDRESS

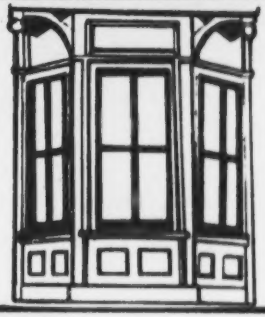
10



FAN LIGHT

ADDRESS

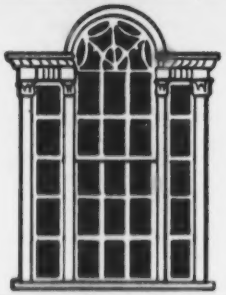
11



BAY WINDOW

ADDRESS

12



THREE PART WINDOW

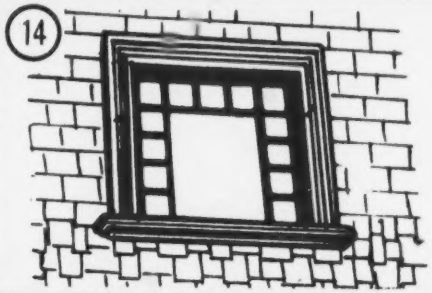
ADDRESS

13

WINDOW CAP

ADDRESS

14



QUEEN ANNE WINDOW

ADDRESS

15

MANSARD ROOF

ADDRESS

16

TOWER

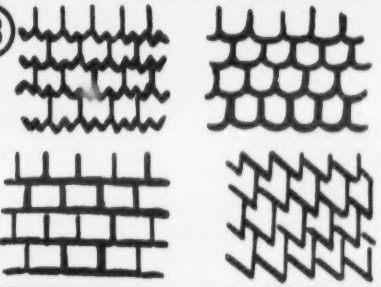
ADDRESS

17

DORMER

ADDRESS

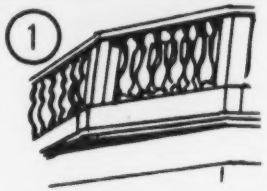
18



SHINGLE PATTERNS

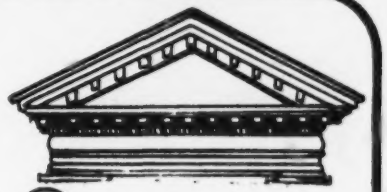
ADDRESS

TREASURE HUNT
CROSSWORD

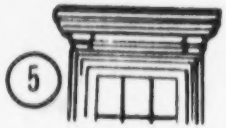


1. A railing used around porches, roofs, and balconies.

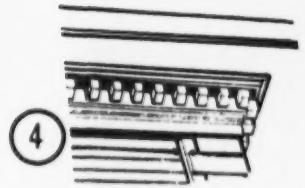
2. Decoration that divides one floor of a building from another. It looks like a belt.



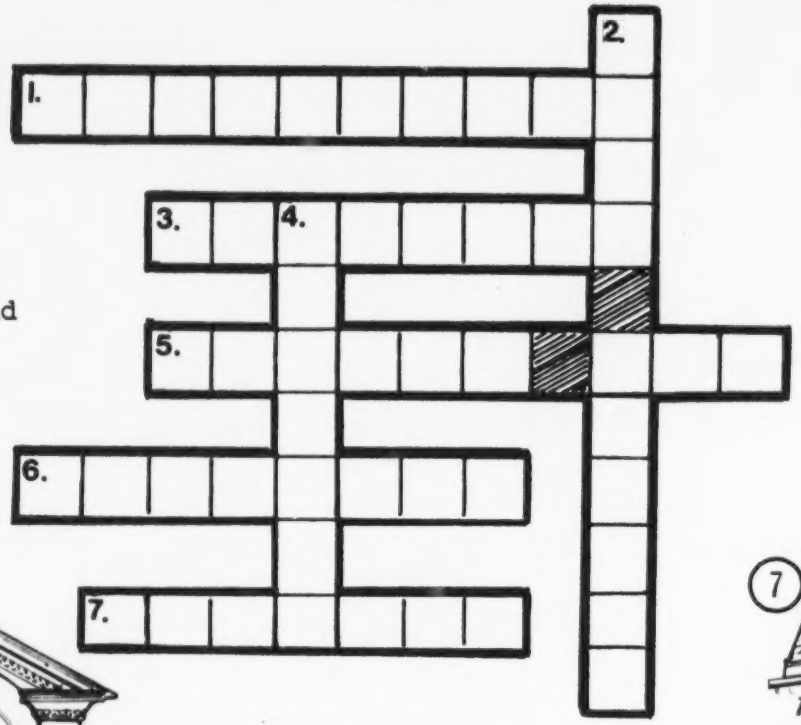
3. A triangle over a door or window.

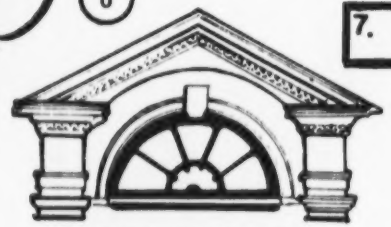


5. Decoration found at the top of a window.



4. Tiny, teeth-like decorations usually found below the roof line.





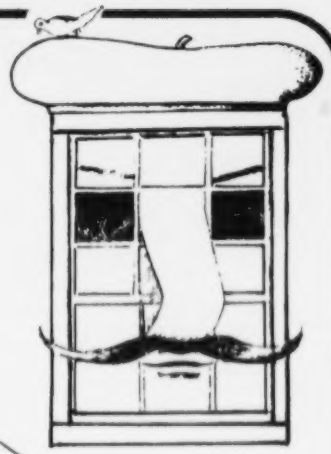
6. A window in the shape of a fan.

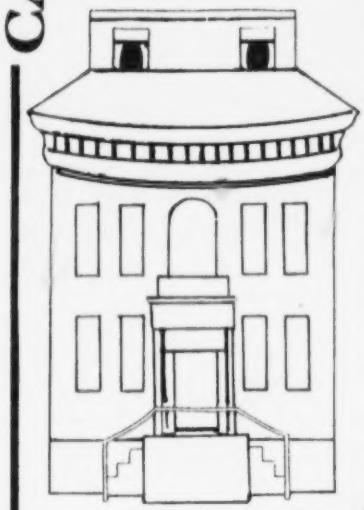
7. A roof style developed in France, which has an almost flat top and sloping sides.

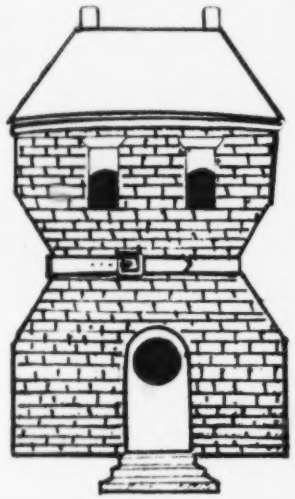
QUIZ

CARTOON

NAME THESE CARTOON CHARACTERS FROM THE SLIDE SHOW A NEW LOOK AT OLD BUILDINGS







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DRAW A HOUSE

DRAW YOUR OWN HOUSE OR YOUR "DREAM" HOUSE

ARCHITECTURAL GLOSSARY

1. BALUSTRADE- A balustrade is a decorative railing that is found around porches, balconies and sometimes roofs.

2. BAY WINDOW- Windows that project from a house to give a better view.

3. BELT COURSE- The line of decoration that separates the different floors of a building. It makes the building look as if it is wearing a belt.

4. BRACKETS- The part of a building which helps to hold up the eaves of a roof, a balcony or a window.

5. COLUMN-A round post that helps to hold any overhanging part of a building up. The top part of a column, or the CAPITAL, can be decorated in many different ways.

6. CORINTHIAN COLUMN- A column with a capital that is decorated with leaves.

7. CORNER BLOCKS- Heavy blocks of brick, stone or any other material imitating stone that reinforce the corners of a building.

8. DENTILS- Tiny teethlike decorations usually found below the roof line.

9. DORIC COLUMN-A column with a simple capital.

10. DORMER- A window in an attic which extends out from the main roof.

11. FANLIGHT- A window over a door in the shape of a half-circle or a fan.

12. IONIC COLUMN- A column with a circular swirl that looks like a ram's horn at each side of the capital.

13. MANSARD ROOF- A roof with very steep slopes on all four sides and an almost flat top. This roof style developed in France.

14. PEDIMENT-Decoration in the shape of a triangle over a door or window. Pediments can also be found at the end of a gable roof.

15. QUEEN ANNE WINDOW- A window with one large piece of glass in the middle and a ring of small squares of glass around the sides.

16. SHINGLE- Overlapping pieces of wood, slate, and other materials that cover roofs and sometimes the sides of buildings. Shingles can be cut in many patterns.

17. THREE-PART WINDOW- A window with three parts. The middle part is sometimes taller with a rounded top.

18. TOWER- A tall part of a building that extends from the main building. A tower can also stand by itself.

19. WINDOW CAP- Decoration that is found at the top of a window.

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